

10/25/69

Dear Phil,

The weather is in my aging joints, too. Apparently both knees are becoming arthritic. So, I know what you mean by the sensitivity of a thin frame, for in a different way I also feel the arrival of autumn. Several ways...

I just learned of this condition. I assume a certain unwillingness to age, a certain amount of misgiving about its inevitability, perhaps some lack of grace about its sudden onslaught, contribute to the anxiety. I think I have it at least under control. Your book helped, though the cases were not parallel. Thanks. I've read part, my wife all.

I had an unsatisfactory psychiatric consultation about it at our medical coop. Without being told what it was or offered an opinion as to whether or not it is indicated or could be helpful, I was told I can have deep therapy if I wanted it and given three names of men entirely unknown and undescribed from which to make a choice. I suppose I am to be my own doctor! It is this sort of thing, combined with the farthur-out public displays, as with Oswald and Sirhan, that undermine my confidence in what I am too-satisfied is more an art than a science.

Annual physical yesterday OK. Doctor had no recommendation on shrink, but prescribed continuation of meprobamate, of which I have halved the dosage with no bad effects. I think a little good news would be the best medicine for me!

Just returned from (bad news) trip to NYC, where I met Richard Baron (formerly President Dial, now publisher). He is best known for Report from Iron Mountain. He is interested in taking all of my unprinted work and making a small book of it. I nixed, more politely than I thought I could. I offered him COUP, the King/Ray part, for this. He now has. I told my agent I would agree if he agreed to the condesnation and if it yields enough for me to print the total work. Agent (fine, urbane black man) agrees. This is tantamount to telling Baron not to do, I suspect. The total work is 500 or my pages, which is over 300,000 words, with an appendix of about 150 pages of rather important docs.

I'd gotten the Pass Christian clip from the N.O. papers. Did not see elsewhere (but thanks, for I want the extra copy, mine being with the copy of the book, to which I'd added it). No less interesting is the fact that Ronnie Caire had established himself there as publisher of the weekly Owl (wiped out) and that Camille also killed "Douglas" ones, at which printing company the famous handbill was printed (not for Oswald- and he told me who!). Sorry as I am about this development, I'm glad I have him on tape, with two witnesses also on it, both alive.

Please continue to send clippings, for much pertinent wire-service copy is not used any more. Work continues to be productive, if that is the right word. New sensations all the time. But unless there is foundation or other private financing for private printing, I have no immediate appearance. Right now I cannot even afford to xerox COUP add (300 pp) for copyrighting.

Best to you both, and thanks.

Sincerely,